AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 10, as follows. Please add claims 19 and 20, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method for managing access to data, the method comprising the steps of:

registering with a database server a user defined policy function to associate with at least two columns of two tables;

wherein registering causes said database server to generate database metadata that associates said policy function with said at least two columns ~~in at least~~ of two tables;

based on the metadata, said database server detecting that a query references said at least two columns; and

in response to the step of detecting:

said database server invoking said policy function to generate a condition expression returned by the policy function; and

rewriting said query by creating a modified query to incorporate said condition expression, based on the database query.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the policy function is not invoked by detecting that a database command requires access to a subset of tables of the at least two tables, wherein the subset of tables includes at least one table.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting includes detecting that metadata defines the columns as a combination of columns to which access is controlled.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of registering a policy function with a policy.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the policy includes metadata identifying the columns.

10. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions, which when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform a method comprising the steps of:

registering with a database server a user defined policy function to associate with at least two columns of two tables;

wherein registering causes said database server to generate database metadata that associates said policy function with said at least two columns ~~in at least~~ of two tables;

based on the metadata, said database server detecting that a query references at least two columns; and

in response to the step of detecting:

said database server invoking said policy to a generate of a condition expression returned by the policy function; and

rewriting said query by creating a modified query to incorporate said condition expression, based on the database query.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the policy function is not invoked by detecting that a database command requires access to a subset of tables of the at least two tables, wherein the subset of tables includes at least one table.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the detecting includes detecting that metadata defines the columns as a combination of columns to which access is controlled.

17. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises the step of registering a policy function with a policy.

18. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the policy includes metadata identifying the columns.

19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a join predicate in said query references both of said at least two columns.

20 (New) The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein a join predicate in said query references both said at least two columns.